

"The next day, Wednesday, having planted the roses, fig-trees, &c., we felt it was time to hasten on our way, and accordingly wished our friends good-bye, except the few who accompanied us on board, intending to return in their whale-boat.

#### BURSTING OF THE GUN.

"At about half-past one the captain was manned, and were about to get under weigh, when our attention was arrested by the firing of the *Bounty's* gun, in farewell salute; scarcely had the sound died away, when it was succeeded by what we at first took to be cheers; but which, alas! proved to be shrieks from the women and children along the cliffs. A boat was instantly manned and sent on shore, with the two surgeons.

By the help of the glass, we could see the women carrying two forms along the cliffs towards the houses, by which we feared that some fatal accident had occurred.

In a short time a canoe came from the shore, with the melancholy tidings that, in loading the gun, the chief magistrate, Matthew McCoy, and two others, Driver Christian and William Evans, were seriously, if not fatally injured.

On reaching the village, we found that poor McCoy, who had suffered the most severely, had had his arm amputated above the elbow, it having been perfectly shattered. The arm was going on well, but the surgeons gave very little hope, owing to the shock the system had received; his breathing was very difficult; and, altogether, we could not help feeling that his hours were numbered. Poor McCoy! He had pleaded very hard that they would not take off his arm; as, without it, he said he should be of very little use to his wife and his eight children. They told him it was his only chance of life, when he submitted to the amputation with unflinching nerve. It was a necessary, but, as the issue proved, a useless infliction; he remained in the same state, hovering between life and death, until about two o'clock the next morning, when he died.

The two others were severely wounded and burnt, but not dangerously; and every hope is entertained of their recovery.

**Thursday.**—This dreadful accident has overwhelmed the little community with grief; there is nothing but weeping; they are truly one family, bound together in heart as they are by the ties of relationship.

At sunset we, that is, the officers and petty officers of the *Virago*, and the Islanders, assembled outside the house where the body of poor McCoy lay. His widow had begged to be allowed to take a last look of what was her husband; the surgeons feared what the effect might be, as she was near her confinement; but she pleaded so pitifully that, at last, they had not the heart to refuse. She accordingly came, accompanied by her children; and touching, indeed, was the scene that followed! She, however, seemed calmer and more resigned after having seen her poor husband, and when I wished her good-bye, on leaving yesterday morning, she appeared better able to bear the affliction with which the Almighty had thought fit to visit her.

All in the *Virago* gave her their best sympathy, and made a subscription for herself and the poor children, amounting to nearly £30, which will, we hope, in a slight degree tend to lighten her burden.

#### FUNERAL IN PITCAIRN.

Few scenes have made a stronger impression upon my mind than the funeral of poor McCoy; deeply impressive from the earnestness of those engaged in the ceremony, and from the absence of that form and luxury with which civilization too often loves to bury its dead.

The grave was dug in a little garden consecrated by the ashes of the father and the brother of Matthew McCoy, beside whose remains his own were about to be laid.

The Burial Service was impressively read by the Rev. W. Holman, after which a hymn was sung—or attempted to be sung—for the accents of the poor Islanders were stifled by sobs; and amidst these sobs the body was lowered into the grave.

It was a beautiful sunset; the tall, plume-like coconut-trees waved gently above our heads. Borne upwards from the sea, mournfully, but not discordantly, came the sound of the breakers as they burst against the shore; while from orange and from lime, and from a thousand fragrant herbs, delicious scents filled the air.

Quietly and thoughtfully we retired from the spot, and gradually found our way off to the ship, to prevent giving the poor afflicted Islanders more trouble than we could help.

**Friday.**—Christian and Evans going on well.

Went with Capt. Prevost; and, with the concurrent wish of the Islanders, spiked the *Bounty's* gun, to prevent the recurrence of the late dreadful accident, which seems to have been caused by using a rammer made from the rafter of a house, those rafters having a nail at each end. The gun was so honey-combed that it could not be fired without danger of its bursting.

**Saturday.**—Christian and Evans progressing as favorably as could be expected. Made every preparation for leaving, when it came on to blow, and the *Virago* stood off to sea.

Finding there was no chance of getting away to-day, I accompanied the rear-guard of goat-hunters to the mountains, armed with a clumsy-looking, but, I believe true German rifle, lent me by George Adams, the maker of which, boasting a name of seven syllables, could little have anticipated that his handiwork would call forth echoes from the picturesque crags of an island in the South Pacific.

Returned to the settlement, dead-beaten, with a very vivid recollection of the awfulness of the precipices, and of the wariness and activity of the goats.

#### CHURCH SERVICE.

**Sunday.**—This morning Capt. Prevost, Ross, the assistant surgeon, Nihil, a passenger, and myself, the only ones left on shore, went to church, and were much struck with the attention paid to the service by the Islanders; several hymns and psalms were sung in their usual correct and devout manner. They repeat the responses very slowly and distinctly; so much so, indeed, as to make it difficult for us to accompany them.

Capt. Prevost took the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, as did most of the adult Islanders. In the afternoon we again attended church.

#### LEAVE-TAKING.

**Monday morning.**—The weather having moderated, *Virago* stood in, and sent a boat on shore; so we prepared for a final leave-taking; the two wounded men going on very well, and pronounced by the surgeons to be out of danger.

As soon as the Islanders found that we really must go, they set about collecting a quantity of ripe fruit, which they insisted upon our taking, although they distressed themselves by this generosity.

The old people accompanied us as far as the 'Market-place,' where we bade each other an affectionate adieu. To the beach we descended with the remainder of our friends; and I do not remember ever to have seen so much mingled kissing and crying. The affectionate nature of the Islanders causes them soon to attach themselves to those who show them even a trifling kindness, and our visit was attended with peculiar circumstances, unfortunately but too well calculated to touch the susceptible feelings of this warm-hearted race. Poor McCoy's death had called forth our sympathy; the strong tie of a mutual sorrow caused their tears to mingle with our farewell regrets.

#### CHARACTER OF THE ISLANDERS.

The Pitcairn Islanders are undoubtedly a fine race; the figures of the men being, however, better than those of the women, which betray their Tahitian origin. The expression of the face in both sexes is generally good, often singularly noble and intellectual; their skin is dark,—darker than I had expected,—although exceptions occur, particularly in children, when it is sometimes nearly white; their eyes are large and lustrous, and their teeth beautiful. The women, to me, were more interesting than handsome. Wearing no stays, their figures, naturally expansive, had a want of compactness which struck a European eye unpleasantly. The children go about naked till they are two years old, and are the dearest little brown rollypoley in the world!

The week spent at Pitcairn's Island will be looked upon by me as one of the most interesting of my life. A state of society is there beheld which cannot be believed unless seen. In many points, particularly in the culture of their minds, a high state of civilization presents itself, without vice or luxury, the community living in the most primitive simplicity; but the most remarkable feature in their character is that of earnest and universal piety. And from this fountain springs their brotherly love, so true, so touching, so unlike anything I had ever seen or dreamed of, as animating a whole community, that it can only be likened to the feeling that exists in a deeply religious and united private family in England. So earnest in their piety, so directly does it appear to spring from Him who is the Divine Source of all religion, that I almost fancied myself in a Theocracy of the primitive ages.

If I am asked, Have they no faults? I answer, Yes, two, to show that they are children of Adam.

The first is, that the men seemed to allow the women to work harder than themselves. The second that there is a want of energy apparent in all they do, all ways excepting religious matters. In these I have summed up all I know to their disadvantage. How proud may England be that it is to her this virtuous and most interesting community look as to their fatherland!

May He who so marvellously raised such fruit from such seed still watch over and protect them!

B. TOUR NICOLAS."

The No. concludes with—

#### A POOR WOMAN'S THANK-OFFERING.

A short time ago the Society received a donation of £100 as a Thank-offering to God. The Clergyman through whom it was sent wrote a letter containing the following interesting account of it:—

"It is a very remarkable contribution: being given by a poor woman of this town who wishes to be unnamed, and who has been for some years a subscriber of half-a-crown to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Some years since she gave the Society a 'Thank-offering' of several pounds; and then again another year, a donation of one or two pounds. She kept a small buckster's shop, the profits of which must have been insignificant. A few months since she was admitted into an almshouse; and last week she brought to the Curate of the parish a parcel of money, saying that it was all, or nearly all, she had laid by during many years; that she should now have no occasion for it, being provided for, for her lifetime; and that she wished to present it as a 'thank-offering' to God. She further wished her name not to be published. All this was done with so much unaffectedness and genuine humility, as to be quite affecting. The Curate, on opening the parcel, found it was a hundred pounds."

#### News Department.

Extracts from English Papers by the Niagara.

#### SENTENCE ON ARCHDEACON DENISON.

*Mr. Dyke*, the Registrar, then read the sentence in the following terms:—"In the name of God, Amen.—Whereas, there is now depending in judgement before us, John Bird, by divine Providence Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan, acting under the provisions of a certain Act of Parliament made and passed in the third and fourth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, entitled, 'An Act for better enforcing Church Discipline,' a certain cause or proceeding promoted by the Reverend Joseph Ditcher, clerk, vicar of the parish of South Brent, in the county of Somerset, against the Venerable George Anthony Denison, a clerk in holy orders of the United Church of England and Ireland, Archdeacon of Taunton, and vicar of the parish of East Brent, in the said county of Somerset, and in the diocese of Bath and Wells, and province of Canterbury, which said cause of proceeding is promoted and brought before us by reason that the patronage or right of presentation, as well of, in, and to the said Archdeaconry of Taunton, as of, in, and to the said vicarage of East Brent, belongs to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Bath and Wells aforesaid; and whereas we, rightly and duly proceeding in the said cause or proceeding, issued our commission under our hand and seal, authorising and requiring the commissioners therein named to inquire into the grounds of the charges made against the said George Anthony Denison; and whereas the said commissioners, having met and examined witnesses, transmitted to us under their hands and seals the depositions of the witnesses taken before them, and also a report of the unanimous opinion of the Commissioners present at the inquiry that there was sufficient *prima facie* ground for instituting proceedings against the said George Anthony Denison; and whereas articles were thereupon drawn up and filed as required by the said Act of Parliament, wherein the said George Anthony Denison was charged and articulated touching and concerning his soul's health, and the lawful correction and reformation of his manners and excesses, and more especially for having offended against the laws and statutes, and against the constitutions and canons ecclesiastical of this realm, by having preached three several sermons or discourses in the Cathedral of Wells as therein mentioned, and by having written, printed, published, dispersed, and set forth, or caused to be printed, published, dispersed, and set forth, the said sermons respectively, with prefaces, advertisements, appendices, and sundry notes thereto, and by having advisedly maintained or affirmed in such sermons, prefaces, advertisements, appendices, and notes, certain positions or doctrines directly contrary and repugnant to the doctrine of the United Church of England and